

UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION

for

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR SELECTING AND CONTROLLING
DEVICES IN A HOME NETWORK

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METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR SELECTING AND CONTROLLING
DEVICES IN A HOME NETWORK

RELATED U.S. APPLICATION

5 This application claims priority to the co-pending provisional patent application, Serial Number 60/241,133, Attorney Docket Number SONY-50P4379.PRO, entitled "Method and System for Selecting and Controlling Devices in a Home Network," with filing date October 16, 2000, and assigned to the assignee of the present application.

10 TECHNICAL FIELD

 The present invention relates to the field of digital electronic devices. In particular, the present invention pertains to devices interconnected in a digital home network.

15 BACKGROUND ART

 The typical home entertainment system consists of a variety of different consumer electronic devices which present and record audio/visual (AV) media in different ways. For instance, typical AV equipment found in a home includes
20 a number of components such as a radio receiver/tuner, a compact disk (CD) player and/or a digital video disc player (DVD), a number of speakers, a television (TV), a video cassette recorder (VCR), a tape deck, and the like. In an analog system, each of these components are connected to each other via a set

of wires. This conventional AV system paradigm has become quite popular and can be found in many homes.

In an analog system, one component is usually the controlling component of the AV system; for example, the tuner. The controlling component has a number of specific inputs for coupling with the other components. The controlling component also has a corresponding number of control buttons or control switches which provide a limited degree of controllability and interoperability for the components. A user controls the AV system by manipulating the buttons and switches on the front of the controlling component or, alternatively, by manipulating buttons on a hand-held remote control unit.

As consumer electronic devices become more capable and complex, the conventional (analog) AV system paradigm is being replaced with a digital AV network architecture for networking consumer electronic devices. The digital AV network architecture provides a powerful platform on which device functionality and interoperability can be built, and is capable of taking advantage of the increased sophistication and intelligence that is being incorporated into consumer electronic devices. Consequently, digital home networks are also becoming quite popular.

A communication standard, the IEEE 1394 standard, has been proposed and is being implemented to connect digital devices in a network using a serial